

## AMENDMENTS

### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend original Claims 1, 5-6, 13, 19, 140 (now claim 14), 150 (now claim 15), 160 (now claim 16), 170 (now claim 17), 180 (now claim 18), 210 (now claim 21) and 220 (now claim 22) as follows (the claims are presented without markings to indicate the changes that have been made):

A 1. (Amended) A method for routing calls to a destination gateway to establish a communication session call in a telecommunications network between a source user agent and a destination user agent over a path supported at least in part by a telephone network and an IP network, said IP network including a plurality of ingress and destination gateways, at least one proxy server, and at least one redirect server (RS), said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a call setup request at the at least one proxy server from the source user agent, wherein the source user agent is included in a public switched telephone network and the call setup request identifies the destination user agent;

b) forwarding the received call setup request to the redirect server;

c) receiving routing information or a request failure response from the redirect server;

d) proxying the call setup request by the at least one proxy server to a destination gateway selected from said routing information upon receiving the routing information from the redirect server, wherein the selected destination gateway can communicate with a public switched telephone network that includes the destination user agent;

e) upon proxying the call setup request to the selected destination gateway,  
waiting for a response from the selected destination gateway;

f) upon receiving the response from the selected destination gateway within a  
predetermined time, establishing a communication session using said selected destination  
gateway; and

g) if the response is not received within the predetermined time, sending the call  
setup request to a succeeding destination gateway selected from the routing information  
and reporting failure of the selected destination gateway to the redirect server, wherein  
the succeeding destination gateway can communicate with a public switched telephone  
network that includes the destination user agent.

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of receiving a call  
setup request at the at least one proxy server from the source user agent includes the step of  
addressing said call setup request to a proxy address of the at least one proxy server.

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of receiving a call  
setup request at the at least one proxy server from the source user agent includes the step of  
counting a number of received requests subsequent to said call setup request at the at least one  
proxy server.

10. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the status of each of said group  
or destination gateway is one of in-service and out-of-service.

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13. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, further including the step of sending a message from the at least one proxy server to a network manager to record the status of a destination gateway.

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of forwarding a request failure response to the source user agent upon receiving the request failure response from the at least one proxy server, and terminating the communication session.

15. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of re-sending the call setup request to the selected destination gateway a predetermined number of times when the response is not received within the predetermined time.

16. (Amended) A system for allowing a call to be completed in a communication session between a calling party and a called party, which comprises:

- a first telephony system including at least one source user agent (SUA);
- a second telephony system including at least one destination user agent (DUA);
- an IP network connected between said first and second telephony systems;
- a plurality of ingress gateways for interfacing said IP network to said first telephony system;
- a plurality of egress gateways for interfacing said IP network to said second telephony system;
- an IP telephony proxy server for selecting one of said plurality of egress gateways for completing said call based on routing information received by the IP telephony proxy

server, wherein the IP telephony proxy server receives a call setup request from the source user agent that identifies the destination user agent;

an IP redirect server for providing the routing information to said IP telephony proxy server; and

a network management system for receiving and storing status changes of destination gateways, said network management system being in communication with said IP telephony proxy server.

17. (Amended) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the IP telephony proxy server is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy server.

18. (Amended) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the IP telephony proxy server is an H.323 gatekeeper.

19. (Amended) A method for detecting an available destination gateway from a plurality of destination gateways in an IP network for completing a communication session between a source user agent in a public switched telephone network and a destination user agent in a public switched telephone network, wherein the source user agent provides a call setup request that identifies the destination user agent, said method comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a message to one of said plurality of destination gateways from a server to ascertain an availability status of said one of said plurality of destination gateways, wherein said one of said plurality of destination gateways can communicate with the public switched telephone network that includes the destination user agent;

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- b) waiting for an acknowledge response from said one of said plurality of destination gateways for a predetermined period of time;
  - c) determining if said one of said plurality of destination gateways is available if said acknowledge response is received within said predetermined period of time; and
  - d) transmitting said message to a succeeding gateway of said plurality of destination gateways, wherein said succeeding gateway can communicate with the public switched telephone network that includes the destination user agent.
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21. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein if said acknowledge response is not received within a predetermined period of time, said availability status of said destination gateway is said to be out-of-service.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein if said one of said plurality of destination gateways is determined to be available, then said availability status is determined to be in-service.

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**Please add the following new claims:**

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--23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the routing information identifies at least one destination gateway that can handle the call according to status information tracked by the redirect server.

24. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the call setup request identifies the destination user agent by specifying the address of the destination user agent.